

Remarks

This is in response to the Final Office Action mailed May 26, 2010, the Notice of Panel Decision from Pre-Appeal Brief Review mailed September 15, 2010, and the Advisory Action mailed December 7, 2010. Independent claims 14 and 27 are currently amended. No new matter has been added. Claims 14-18 and 20-31 remain pending. A Request for Continued Examination is filed concurrently herewith. Reconsideration and allowance of the pending claims are therefore respectfully requested for at least the following reasons.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

At page 2 of the Final Office Action dated May 26, 2010 (hereinafter “Action”), claims 14-18 and 20-31 are rejected under § 103(a) as being unpatentable given U.S. Pat. Pub. No. 2004/0012280 to Frey et al. (hereinafter “Frey”) in view of U.S. Pat. No. 3,842,877 to Andrews. This rejection is respectfully traversed, and the correctness of the rejection is not conceded. However, in an effort to advance the present application to allowance, independent claims 14 and 27 are amended.

The rejection should be withdrawn because Frey and Andrew fails to disclose or suggest (either alone or in combination) crosspieces configured as required in claims 14 and 27.

A. Claims 14-18 and 20-26

Independent claim 14 as amended recites, in part, “a plurality of individual crosspieces, each crosspiece extending to a cutting edge only in a direction perpendicular to the longitudinal axis of the base” and “wherein the cutting edge of the crosspieces cut into the non-recessed portions of the bore when the support member is turned relative to the housing without axial displacement of the supporting member.” (underlining added)

As conceded in the Action, Frey fails to provide structure related to the “cutting edge” of the “crosspieces” of claim 14. Instead, the Action refers to the threaded sectors 14 of Andrews as providing the disclosure lacking in Frey. *See Action, p. 3; pp. 8-9.* However, Applicants respectfully assert that the “cutting edge” of the “crosspieces” of claim 14 are clearly distinguished from the threaded sectors 14 of Andrews because the threaded sectors 14 are “screw type.” *See also, Action, p. 8.* In other words, the non “screw type” structure of the claimed crosspieces defined by the limitations “... each crosspiece extending to a cutting edge

only in a direction perpendicular to the longitudinal axis of the base" and "...without axial displacement of the supporting member" of claim 14 is distinguished from the "screw type" threaded sectors 14 of Andrews. Reconsideration and allowance of claim 14, as well as all claims that depend therefrom, are therefore requested.

B. Claims 27-31

Independent claim 27 as amended recites, in part, "... a cutting edge extending only along a plane perpendicular to a longitudinal axis of the supporting member" and "...without displacement along the longitudinal axis of the supporting member". (underlining added) For reasons similar to those presented above, Applicants respectfully assert that Frey and Andrews fail to disclose or suggest (either alone or in combination) such subject matter. Reconsideration and allowance of claim 27, as well as all claims that depend therefrom, are requested.

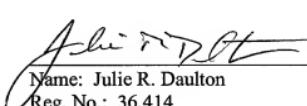
Conclusion

The remarks set forth above provide certain arguments in support of the patentability of the pending claims. There may be other reasons that the pending claims are patentably distinct over the cited references, and the right to raise any such other reasons or arguments in the future is expressly reserved.

Favorable reconsideration in the form of a Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested. Please contact the undersigned attorney with any questions regarding this application. Please grant any extensions of time required to enter this response and charge any additional required fees to our Deposit Account 13-2725.

Respectfully submitted,
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